

ESTABLISH GARRISON CREEPING FOXTAIL^{1*}

MARCH, 1999

Steps to follow in establishing a stand of Garrison Creeping Foxtail. This species with enough moisture will establish in soil types of sandy, clay, loam, peat and muck.

1. Prepare a firm seedbed:

Work the soil to a mellow texture and compact very firm. Using your weight, press your shoe heel down on the soil surface, you should indent not more than 1/4 inch to be firm enough for legume and grass seed.

2. When the seedbed is firm it is ready to plant:

- a. The seed can be broadcast:

Roller pack on dry soil two or three times. Can be broadcast and roller packed around wet areas where alfalfa or other grasses are not growing.

- b. A double disc drill with depth bands and packer wheels work very well.

3. The seed being planted should be at least 90% pure live seed. This seed is very light and fluffy and therefore should be planted with a carrier such as rice hulls, cracked corn or vermiculite. Without a carrier the seed will fluff up and not feed through the drill. Roller pack with the teeth raised.

4. Seeding depth:

Creeping Foxtail seed must be planted no deeper than 1/2 inch in depth. Deeper than 1/2 inch can cause poor emergence and a poor established stand.

5. Row spacing:

Creeping Foxtail can be sown in row spacings from six to 28 inches. Because this species has very vigorous rhizomes it will fill in between the rows quite rapidly and become sodbound.

^{1*}Summarized by Extension Agronomists Dennis Cash and Howard Bowman and County Extension Agent John Ranney, P.O. Box 35021, Billings, MT 59107

6. Irrigation of New Seedbed:

The new planting must be irrigated frequently to keep the growing zone moist. **The new seedlings need continual moisture to establish a new stand.** The water holding capacity of the soil is the determining factor in how often irrigation will be needed. Sandy soils will need more frequent irrigation. The new seedlings should be watered frequently, but no deeper than a lawn.

7. Moderately fall graze or harvest the new field for hay. This species is very palatable to livestock.

8. Because of its rhizomatous root system, Creeping Foxtail is a good soil stabilizer for erosion control.

9. Creeping Foxtail when let go to seed, will reseed itself quite rapidly in moist soils.

10. Creeping Foxtail makes excellent high protein grass hay when harvested in early flowering. (Hay quality is similar to Smooth Brome Orchardgrass, and Regar Brome).

11. Fertility:

Responds very well to nitrogen. In the establishment year N fertilizer may stimulate the weeds more than the grass.